

**City of Somerville, Health Department**  
**Report to Joint Public Health Board, Board of Health and Mayor's Office**  
**for January 2006**

**To Be Submitted February 7, 2006 to JPHB**

**Board of Health**

- Dr. David Osler's service will be honored with citations at the February 9th Board of Aldermen meeting
- Board members discussed the advantages and challenges of adding an Apprenticeship Process to the current Body Art Regulations of the Somerville Board of Health. Present were Body Art store owners and the Assistant City Solicitor
- Board members receive information on need to receive training in Incident Management System Command. The training NIMS 700 and ICS 100 will be offered at Somerville Hospital in early 2006.

**Director's Updates**

**Emergency Preparedness**

- Director and Public Health Nurse meet Executive Director Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services to share ideas about pandemic flu planning with special populations.
- Director and Public Health Nurse meet with Deputy Chief Graney to discuss Operation Poseidon role
- Director and Public Health Nurse attend Pandemic Flu Training Exercise debriefing at Somerville Hospital
- Director and Public Health Nurse attend Biowatch Information meeting
- Director and Public Health Nurse participate in ICH Region 4B Capacity Assessment

**Body Art**

- Director and Administrative Assistant convene monthly meetings of the Body Art Working Group addressing the lack of Apprenticeship Process in current Regulations
- Director requests and receives City of Quincy Body Art Regulations which includes Apprenticeship Process

**Fiscal/ Budget**

- Director and Administrative Assistant meet with City Auditor discuss staffing constraints and upcoming budget process

**Active Living/ Shape Up Somerville**

- Director convenes meeting with Groundwork Somerville Board Chair to discuss status on ED search
- Director and Health Agenda meet with Emerson College Communications Team to assess their role during Active Living/ Groundwork transition, and status of communications plan
- Director and Health Agenda conduct progress update with Active Living Program Officer
- Director under Health Agenda leadership participates in reviews and enhancements with Year 3 Active Living by Design workplan

**Other**

- Director and Staff prepared accomplishments and progress report to the Mayor in preparation for his Inaugural Address
- Director met with strategic planning consultant and coach Eileen Sullivan to develop a scope of services and workplan
- Director facilitates meeting between Tobacco Control Director and 311 Director to add tobacco control complaint process to Customer Service Website
- Director completes ServSafe training and test
- Director facilitates quarterly check-in meeting between Superintendent of Schools and School Nurse Leader
- Director facilitates meeting between the Shore Collaborative and the School Nurse Leader
- Director and Administrative Assistant working with Womens Commission Director to update Departmental page and programs on city website

**Health Inspectors****Sanitary Inspections**

- Responded to 18 complaints, 17 resolved
- Conducted 24 inspections of retail/food establishments, 7 reinspections
- Four new business inspections
- 14 first visits to potential new businesses
- Annual renewal permit collection
- Ticket collection
- One foodborne illness investigation

**Housing Inspections**

- Responded to 58 complaints, 41 resolved
- Conducted 3 full inspections
- One property condemned, resident displaced
- Responded to 1 emergency, tenant placed in Bryant Manor
- Met with Modern Pest Extermination for rodent control in the City of Somerville
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Impact Team
- Issued trash tickets

**Public Health Nursing**

- Completed 15-month treatment with one TB patient, two remain on DOT
- Trained temporary assistant in Medicare Billing
- Attended BioWatch meeting
- Attended Region 4B and UASI meetings
- Investigated 11 communicable disease cases
- Presented information on Public Health Nursing at Somerstat meeting
- Provided flu shots & FluMist as needed to residents
- Attended CHNA 17 Meeting

### **School Nursing**

- School Nurses continue to gather health information updates to maintain student compliance with health mandates
- School Nurses gave first aid to 795 students and 22 in December
- School Nurses performed illness assessments on 1763 students in December
- School nurses performed 1128 nursing procedures in December (tube feedings, ostomy care, glucose testing, peak/flow monitoring etc.)
- School Nurses gave out medications to students 1455 times in December
- Psychosocial Counseling was documented 214 times in nurse's offices in December
- School nurses continue gathering data for asthma project for school physician
- SNL continuing quality assurance project about vision
- SNL continues to attend PEP grant planning meetings
- SNL continues work on student health report cards
- New nurse hired to fill full time position opening
- SNL continues to seek substitute nurses to fill roster
- SNL working with school physician to assess asthma data

### **Somerville Commission for Women**

- Somerville Domestic Violence Taskforce: the group continues to strengthen in its monthly meeting. We have collaborators from the police, RESPOND, La Red/The Network, Asian Task Force, the Family Center, the Guidance Center, the Women's Commission, and Middlesex County Victims' Advocates.
- Walking: the Safe-START Taskforce meets twice a month and Sonja Darai attends. The group is working on a task list for 2006 for the individual groups.
- TADA: The teens meet weekly and are very involved. In January, the group planned a fundraiser for Teen Dating Abuse Awareness Day on Valentine's Day. They have posted bulletin designs in the SHS cafeteria and the Teen Center on dating abuse. They plan to expand this visual to City Hall for Women's History Month (joining the Women's Commission).
- Commissioners: There are five pending applications for Commissioners. We continue to receive requests for more info on the Commission and how to participate.  
TV Show: The Women's Commission will join a new Somerville news show and showcase an upcoming free self-defense class on Feb. 16.

### **Somerville Cares About Prevention**

- Held our month Environmental Strategies Sub Committee mtg.
- Made a presentation at the Somerville Kiwanis Club in Somerville.
- Finalized work for the administration of this years high school YRBS.
- Worked with our evaluation committee on our event and membership logs.
- Attended the Youth Workers Network meeting.
- Attended the monthly Mass Forum training.
- Held our Suicide Prevention Task Force meeting.
- Held our Annual meeting.
- Wrote the BSAS semi-annual report.

- With the assistance of the RCHC, members of the Environmental Strategies Sub-Committee completed their CMCA logic model.
- Held our Annual Meeting.

## **Tobacco Control**

### Administrative

- 5-City Directors' Advisory Meeting on 01/12/06.
- Gathering resumes for the Tobacco Enforcement Officer part-time position.

### Technology News

- Meeting at DPH on 01/04/06 to discuss the use of electronic devices for data gathering in the field. 5-City volunteered to pilot any program approved by the panel.
- Meeting with Sean Murphy on 01/10/06 to discuss the implementation of a tobacco control complaint and information protocols in the "311" system.

### Youth Access

- Tobacco retailer compliance checks in:
  - Chelsea (Checked: 52, Sale: 4, Tickets: 3 (1 waived due to youth mischaracterization of his age), Total: \$400) Current rate of sale FY05: 2.2%
  - Everett (Checked: 52, Sale: 2, Warnings: 2) Current rate of sale FY05: 0.5%
- Tobacco retailer educational inspections in:
  - Chelsea (Visited: 59, Signage Violations: 21, warnings: 21)
- Educational Mailings
  - Somerville: 124 pieces
  - Cambridge: 145 pieces
  - Chelsea: 59 pieces
  - Everett: 58 pieces
  - Revere: 89 pieces
  - 475 pieces

### ETS

- Inspections
  - Chelsea (Visited: 59, Violations: 0)
  - Cambridge (Visited: 2, Smoking Violations: 1, Tickets: 1, Total: \$100 (waived due to miscommunication with Lic. Commission))
- Meeting with Cambridge License Commission to determine protocol for dealing with smoking violations in taxicabs.

## **Trauma Response Network**

- Chaired 2 TRN Leadership Mtgs. 1/9, 1/30
- Attended Inauguration 1/2/06
- Attended IC3 meeting on collaboration 1/18
- Performed outreach to community caregivers to participate in Suicide Survivor's Support Group

- Attended 5 meetings with colleagues re: Suicide Survivor's Support Group – 2 meetings on 1/4/06, 1/12, 2 mtgs 1/25
- Performed advocacy for family affected by trauma of last year via several community agencies and mayor's office
- Worked with printer to finalize trauma brochure for printing 1/9, 1/25 and produced brochure 1/26, distributed at quarterly meeting of TRN, to schools and beyond
- Performed reconn re: 2 OD deaths of Somerville-affiliated young people – a 22 year old Medford female, and 27 year old male
- Attended Youth Worker/Coaches Conversations meetings to continue work on funded grant – 1/5, 1/12 as well as continued independent work related to this training
- Met with TRN member to get input on materials for Youth Worker training 1/18
- Implemented Youth Worker Conversation training 1/24
- Met with community members individually to network re: trauma and TRN 1/5, 1/18
- Attended Annual Meeting of SCAP 1/25
- Performed reconn, led PTSO intervention (1/17) with CTRF and members of the Somerville TRN at a Psych Hospital re: suicide of patient, and performed follow-up 1/13-1/27
- Attended 3 meetings at CTRF to coordinate 1/11, 1/24, 1/31
- Attended meeting of Student Support Services SHS 1/13
- Participated in meeting of Suicide/Mental Health Task Force 1/19 – helped prepare agenda, edit newsletter, and input on notes for meeting
- Attended Health Dept. Staff mtg. 1/23
- Provided consultation and referral for community member re: trauma tx
- Provided consultation and referral for clinical community member re: opportunities
- Provided outreach and administration to facilitate admission of 10 Somerville community members into PTSM training for February
- Performed reconn on suicide (1/23) in neighboring town in response to request of Somerville community member - ongoing assessment of possible impact in Somerville
- Planned and implemented quarterly meeting of STRN 1/26
- Perform reconn on shooting incident in Somerville 1/27
- Assisted SCAP in distribution of YRBS mailing
- Attended orientation/new member meeting of SCC 1/31